GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2090
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
GYAN KENDRAS
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Chaure Shri Bapu Hari;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Khanna Shri Avinash Rai;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Munshiram Shri ;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain villages for establishing Gyan Kendras under the `Mission 2007` as reported in the Dainik Jagaran dated July 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the villages so identified, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) the role assigned to these Gyan Kendras;

(d) whether funds have been earmarked for implementation of this scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these Gyan Kendras are likely to be established?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) & (b) As per the schedule finalized by NABARD (in consultation with Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation) for the year 2005-06, 10,000 Village Knowledge Centres (Gyan Kendras) would be set up in ten selected States/UTs. As on date no project report indicating list of villages to be covered has been received from any of the State Governments by NABARD.

(c) The Village Knowledge Centres are expected to act as a delivery mechanism for information on various aspects like agriculture input and output prices, agricultural practices, weather alerts, health, education, etc., based on the needs of the local people. In addition, it would also become a focal point for e-governance and deliver government services through the same channel depending on the level of computerisation of operations of the state government.

(d) The Hon`ble Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 100 crore in budget 2005-06 under RIDF for credit support to State Governments to set up Village Knowledge Centres (Gyan Kendras). Ten States/Union Territories namely West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal have been selected in the first phase in consultation with M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation for setting up 10,000 Rural Knowledge Centres / Gyan Kendras by March 2006.

(e) Mission 2007 (a National Level Initiative launched by integrated efforts of 80 organisations including civil society organisations) envisages setting up of Rural Knowledge Centres in every village of the country by the 60th year of Independence i.e. 15 August 2007.